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American Embassy, Stockholm  
March 31, 1946

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

Dear Outers:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum regarding Jarring's request for assistance in investigating some new evidence that Raoul Wallenberg may be a prisoner in the Soviet Union. For your information, Wallenberg, who is a nephew of the influential banking Wallenbergs, was assigned by the Foreign Office to Budapest in 1944 to be in charge of their Foreign Interests Section, but, more particularly, to try to do something for the Jews who were suffering severely under the German occupation. Apparently considerable sums of money were made available to him by the JDC. He was in Budapest during the siege and in January 1945 disappeared under mysterious circumstances. The Swedes have always believed that he was seized by the Russians and hope that he may still be a prisoner in the Soviet Union.

The case has considerable internal political importance since the Government and particularly Foreign Minister Udden have been criticized by the opposition for not having pressed the Russians hard enough. It still comes up from time to time, latest quite recently when some of the papers suggested that the Swedish Red Cross Delegation, which has just returned from a visit to the Soviet Union, might take up the Wallenberg case with the Russian Red Cross.

My guess is that Jarring's insistence on the delicate nature of the case and the need for confidential handling is based more on these local political factors than on any fear that the Russians might learn that the Swedes were still investigating.

We will

Outersbridge Horey, Esquire,  
Deputy Director,  
EUR/ASA,  
Department of State,  
Washington.

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We will appreciate very much any information you may be able to obtain, both because of my personal desire to help out Jarring and because we feel it is to our interest to keep the Wallenberg case alive as a reminder to the Swedes that they do have some outstanding issues with the Russians.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ George

George H. Abbott  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

Memorandum of Conversation,  
dated March 30, 1955.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Mar. 1945

Mr. Gunnar Jarring, Chief of the Political Section, Swedish Foreign Office, and George M. Abbott, Counselor of Embassy, American Embassy, Stockholm.

Raoul Wallenberg

Mr. Jarring asked me to call at the Foreign Office and, when I arrived, said that he would like to ask a favor. He presumably heard of the case of Raoul Wallenberg who disappeared in 1945 while a member of the Swedish Legation in Budapest, supposedly picked up by the Russians. While the Russians have always denied any knowledge of Wallenberg, the Swedes have never given up in their efforts to locate him, and they have certain indications that he is alive and a prisoner somewhere in Russia.

Their latest lead originated with a German Admiral recently released by the Russians. He was asked if he had encountered any Swedes during his period of imprisonment. He replied no, but that in December 1944 he had met in Vladimir Prison an American by the name of Kumish who said that "he had previously been together" with a Swede in that prison. The German stated that Kumish was a Sergeant in the American Army stationed in Vienna who had been picked up by the Russians in 1949 when he wandered into the Russian Zone.

Mr. Jarring asked me if I could check up to find out if Kumish exists, in other words - is the story as told by the German correct, or substantially correct. Also, if Kumish has been released or should in the future be released, if he could be discreetly interrogated regarding any Swedes whom he may have met in prison. Finally, in our past interrogations of persons who have been imprisoned by the Russians, has any information developed regarding any Swedes in general, and Wallenberg in particular.

Jarring emphasized that the Wallenberg case is an extremely delicate one in Swedish-Russian relations, and they consider it important that the Russians do not learn that the Swedes are continuing their investigation. He said that in inquiries which they make they never ask directly about Wallenberg, but merely inquire about any Swedes who might be imprisoned, and he hoped that in our inquiries we might do the same. I did not get the name of the German Admiral when Jarring first mentioned it,

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although it sounded something like Hello. When I asked about it later, Jarving said he would prefer not to have the Admiral's name used at this time. In concluding, Jarving said that there was no urgency in the matter, and he hoped that I would therefore handle it through confidential informal channels.

Chabbert:ncf

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